Setting up of an Arbitration Board by the Telecom. Commission.

105. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BICP's recommendations have been accepted by the Telecom Commission to set up an arbitration board to settle the disputes between the service providers and subscriber;

(b) if so, what will be its terms of reference and compositions of the Board; and

(c) if not, by when exactly it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference and composition of the Board are being worked out.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (b) above.

Amendment of Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986

106. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 921 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1993 and state:

(a) whether Government will consider amending the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 to properly supervise and administer the SCICI and its role in financing the deep sea fishing industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; ana

(c) if not, what steps are proposed to ractify the various flaws in the administration of SCICI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) SCICI is a private sector company incorporated under the Companies Act. It is governed by the policies as decided by its Board of Directors from time to time, like other financial institutions. No amendment of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) (Abolition) Act is intended for this purpose. In so far as loans granted by erstwhile SDFC are concerned, SCICI acts as an agent (designated person) of Government for recovery/administration of portfolio.

Steps to utilise foreign aid

107. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than $ 18.5 billion of unutilised aid given to India has piled up over the years;

(b) whether Aid India Consortium of Western donors has voiced its concern at New Delhi's failure to utilize the existing aid commitments as reported in the Pioneer of July 2, 1993;

(c), if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what are the facts in this regard;

(d) what is the total amount of aid given to India by each donor during each of the last three years;

(e) what are the details of the aid and the projects for which it was given;

(f) the reasons for which Government failed to utilize the existing aid commitments in respect of each project; and

(g) what steps are being taken by Government to expedite implementation and disbursement from the existing aid commitments and to remove the deficiencies that exist in the present system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was a discussion at the Aid India Consortium on further steps to improve the utilisation of External Assistance.

(c) It is estimated that a total cumula tive amount of Rs. 87,953 crores of committed foreign assistance remained unuti lised at the end of 1992-93.

(d) and (e) Information regarding amount of aid and projects for which aid was received upto 1991-92 is given in the External Assistance Brochure 1991-92 published by the Ministry of Finance, copies of which are placed in the Library of the House. Donor-wise utilisation for the year 1992-93 is given in the statement attached.

(f) Most of external assistance is tied to specific projects and the disbursements are, therefore, linked to the projects implementation schedules. The pace of actual implementation varies from project to project. However the loan amount not utilised during a particular financial year does not normally lapse, and is carried forward for utilisation in the subsequent years. Among the major factors respott-sible for slow utilisation are inadequate counterpart fundning, procurement delays, deficiencies in contract supervision and operational complexities of the planning process and resource transfers.

(g) Government have taken a number of steps to accelerate the implementation of externally aided projects and the utilisation of external assistance. These include simplification of procedures for release of foreign exchange and tender evaluation passing on of 100 per cent external assistance to States, and advance releases on account of externally aided projects. Monitoring of externally aided projects has also been intensified.

Utilisation of external assistance during I992-93

(in crores)

S.No.	Country/Institution	Rupees
	GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT:	
A.	***Multilateral:***	
1.	I.B.R.D.	1973.53
2.	I.D.A.	3407.30
3.	I.F.A.D.	8.27
4.	A.D.B.	748.71
5.	O.P.E.C.	10.15
B.	***Bilateral:***	
6.	Canada	25.86
7.	Denmark	25.13
8.	F.R.G.	893.48
9.	Japan	1366.90
10.	Netherlands	194.28
11.	Sweden	113.11

1	2
12. Switzerland	113.33
13. U.K.	309.79
14. U.S.A.	77.03
15. E.E.C.	42.36
16. Norway.	20.97
17. France	351.55
18. Austria	13.67
19. Belgium	11.42
20. Italy	10.80
21. Saudi Fund	2.25
22. U.S.S.R. (Erstwhile)	34.75
23. Kuwait Fund	5.59
24. Australia	2.91
25. Others	34.58
TOTAL	9797.72
NON-GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT	
1. A.D.B.	289.60
2. F.R.G.	188.95
3. France	3.30
4. I.B.R.D.	605.21
TOTAL:	1087.06
GRAND TOTAL:	10884.78

Simplification of Tax Procedure

108. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report that appeared in the Business Standard, Calcutta dated 21st June, 1993, quoting the Chairman of CBDT that the morale of the staff and officers is at its lowest ebbs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the Chellaiah Committee report on Tax Administration and if so, how many